



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **RAMP METERING TO RESUME ON SR- 71/91 CONNECTOR**

**San Bernardino** - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) recently completed improvements along State Route 71 (SR71) in Riverside County. In the process, Caltrans made various operational improvements to traffic management, including the installation of ramp meters on the connector ramp from the southbound SR71 to the westbound State Route 91. They will be activated in two weeks.

Understanding the importance of keeping traffic moving on both freeways, Caltrans will resume ramp metering on this connector in order to minimize congestion.

“Metering the connector is a traffic management tool intended to control the flow of traffic entering the congested 91 freeway,” said Patty Romo, Acting Interim District Director for Caltrans in San Bernardino. “We will continue to monitor both freeways at the interchange and will make any adjustments necessary to the timing of the ramp meter to minimize delay to on both routes and ensure traffic flows at an acceptable level.”

Caltrans is working closely with the cities of Corona, Chino Hills and Riverside County to find solutions to improve traffic flow until major improvement projects can be built to reduce congestion and improve the level of service on the entire 91 corridor.

Commuters have called asking, ‘Why not just turn the meter off;’ stated Syed Raza, Deputy Director of Traffic Operations. Raza responded, “This would result in allowing high volumes of traffic from the southbound Route 71 to enter in an unrestricted manner onto the westbound route 91, ultimately resulting in a breakdown of the flow of traffic on route 91.”

By controlling the volume of cars that merge onto Route 91, it allows traffic to continue to flow onto the 91 without coming to a complete stop.” The Ramp meters will be programmed as traffic responsive and will be turned on only when there is congestion on mainline SR-91. Caltrans will ensure that the ramp meters do not cause more than a few minutes additional delay to the motorists on southbound 71 and will not be anywhere close to the delays this week. Caltrans staff will be present in the field to monitor traffic flow and fine tune the metering rate if needed.

This form of traffic management is consistent with the other local street interchange on ramps on Route 91 in the Cities of Riverside and Corona when demand on mainline warrants turning on the ramp meters.

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